

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 13-19, with the following amended paragraph:

Requirements of ports may also be aggregated for each of the plurality of flows and a determination made as to whether a number of available ports of one or more of the interconnect elements is exceeded by the aggregated requirements of ports. Whether a flow corresponds to a valid path through the interconnect fabric may be determined. A valid path starting at a source node for the flow, terminating at an end node for the flow and passing through a contiguous subset of the interconnect elements.

Please replace the paragraph at page 17, lines 11-20, with the following amended paragraph:

Because all of the backup paths of FIG. 9 utilize the device 348, the device may not have sufficient bandwidth capacity to support all of the flows simultaneously. However, the device 348 preferably has sufficient bandwidth capacity to handle the flows i, j and k simultaneously (as may be needed if the device 328 should fail) or the flows l, m and n simultaneously (as may be needed if the device 338 should fail). Accordingly, the interconnect fabric of FIG. 9, including the primary and backup paths, may be developed by a method disclosed in co-pending U.S. application Ser. No. 10/052,682[[____]], filed, January 17, 2002, entitled, "Reliability for Interconnect Fabrics," the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference or by another method.

Please replace the paragraph at page 18, lines 5-13, with the following amended paragraph:

In other embodiments, the interconnect fabric may include redundant paths sufficient to support all of the flows simultaneously. In which case, such an interconnect fabric may be developed by a method disclosed in co-pending U.S. application Ser. No. 10/027,589[[____]], filed December 19, 2001, entitled, "Reliability for Interconnect Fabrics" or by another method. Thus, in a scenario set up in step 302, one or more flows may be assigned to both a primary path for the flow and a redundant path for the flow. In

step 304, the method 100 may be used to determine whether the design is capable of supporting such flows simultaneously.